

76
Organization
PRESS RELEASE ON THE NEW PSYCHOLOGICAL
STRATEGY BOARD

The White House announced today the establishment of a National Psychological Strategy Board to coordinate information and related activities of all government agencies working to ^(strengthen) mobilize the world forces of democracy ~~to resist communism~~ ^(against their struggle with communist aggression).

The new body is composed of the Undersecretary of State, James E. Webb, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Robert A. Lovett, and the Director of Central Intelligence, General Walter Bedell Smith. In addition, representatives of other agencies may be called in to sit with the Board.

Simultaneously, it was announced that Joseph E. Schmalz of Waddell, Arizona, has been designated by the President as the principal executive official of the Board.

Mr. Schmalz' duties will be to assist the Board by reviewing all government activities in the field of ^{psychological strategy} ~~political warfare~~ and preparing recommendations to strengthen and coordinate these activities. He will also see that decisions of the Board are carried out. He will have the title of Director, and his staff will be contributed by the Departments of State and Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency.

While the Psychological Strategy Board will insure that all departments and agencies speak with one voice, existing agencies will be used in actual execution of its decisions. Information ^(and related) activities will remain ^{a military responsibility} ~~under the Joint Chiefs of Staff~~ in occupied areas and theaters of military operations, and elsewhere ^{a responsibility of} ~~under the State Department~~.

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

The ~~Interdepartmental Psychological Strategy Board~~ under the chairmanship of Assistant Secretary of State Edward W. Barrett, which has been in existence for approximately a year, will continue to coordinate the execution of U. S. foreign information programs. This organization includes representatives from the Department of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Economic Cooperation Administration.

The new Board and its Director will concentrate on government-wide policy which has implications for ^{U. S.} ~~political warfare and~~ long-range ^{psychological effort} ~~planning~~. It will thus serve as a strategic general staff for ~~political warfare~~ and will be in a position to provide guidance beyond that which has been furnished hitherto by agencies which have been principally concerned with day-to-day operations. It will also have authority to call upon private organizations and individuals throughout the country for assistance.

One of the main tasks of the Psychological Strategy Board will be to see that all government resources are used to keep alive democratic sentiments behind the iron curtain. Recent ^{information} ~~intelligence~~ has indicated that the Soviet leaders are having increasing difficulties in controlling the restive peoples in Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union itself. This is believed to be one of the chief factors which restrains the Politburo from plunging the world into a general war. With the development of new technical instruments for bringing truthful information behind the iron curtain this counterbalance to Soviet warlike ambitions will be maintained and increased.